AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An immortalized avian cell line ~~immortalized by non-viral transfection~~ comprising ~~with~~ a combination of viral ~~and/or cellular~~ genes, at least one first viral gene affecting the function of the retinoblastoma protein ~~by mediating disruption of complexes between retinoblastoma proteins and E2F transcription factors~~ and at least one second viral gene affecting the p53 protein or a family member thereof, wherein the first viral gene is an early region 1A (E1A) gene from mastadenoviruses; and
wherein the second ~~gene is a~~ viral gene codes ~~coding~~ for [[a]] an early region 1B 55K (E1B 55K) protein from mastadenoviruses ~~preventing induction of growth arrest and apoptosis by p53, or is a cellular gene preventing growth arrest and apoptosis by p53~~.

2. (Original) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the first gene overcomes G1 checkpoint control and the second gene prevents apoptosis induced by the first gene.

3. (Currently Amended) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein
   (i) the cell line is ~~derived~~ obtained from at least one of the group consisting of embryonic chicken, ~~or~~ hatched chicken, duck, goose or quail,
   (ii) the cells subjected to immortalization are selected from at least one of the group consisting of primary cells from isolated body segments or separated individual organs; or ~~including fibroblasts, cells from isolated body segments (somites) or separated individual~~

~~organs including neuronal, brain, retina, kidney, liver, heart, muscle and extraembryonic tissues and membranes protecting the embryo;~~

(iii) the ~~immortalization of the cells~~ genes are introduced to the cells by non-viral transfection ~~is by liposome or dendrimer-mediated transfection or electroporation~~;

~~(iv) the first gene is a viral gene mediating disruption of complexes between retinoblastoma proteins and E2F transcription factors such as an adenovirus E1A gene from mastadenoviruses, mastadenoviruses of group C, an E7 gene of papillomaviruses, an E7 gene of human papilloma virus (HPV 1, HPV 6 or HPV11, but not HPV16 or HPV18), an orf 22 gene of avian adenoviruses, E43 open reading frames from ovine attadenovirus; or is a cellular gene mediating disruption of complexes between retinoblastoma proteins and E2F transcription factors Cyclins D1, D2 or D3, or a mutated CDK4 not susceptible to inactivation by p16INK4a,~~

~~(v) the second gene is a viral gene coding for a protein preventing induction of growth arrest and apoptosis by p53 such as the adenovirus E1B55K protein of all groups, GAM-1 of CELO, the E6 protein of papillomaviruses, (the E6 protein of HPV 1, HPV6 or HPV11, but not HPV16 and HPV18), or is a cellular gene preventing growth arrest and apoptosis by p53 such as mdm2,~~

~~(vi) the first gene and second gene are separated spatially by heterologous sequences or are located on different nucleic acid segments or plasmids~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein ~~claim 3, which is immortalized with~~

~~(i)~~ the E1A first viral gene ~~(first gene)~~ and E1B second viral gene ~~(second gene) region~~ is obtained ~~of an adenovirus from the genus Mastadenovirus, or said E1A and E1B region is derived~~ from adenovirus 5,
wherein [[or]] said E1A gene has ~~regions have~~ the sequence of bp 1193 to 2309 of SEQ ID NO: 7 ~~SEQ ID NO:7~~ or the sequence complementary to bp 4230 to 3113 of SEQ ID NO: 9; ~~SEQ ID NO:9;~~ and
wherein said E1B gene has ~~regions have~~ the sequence of bp 1145 to 3007 of SEQ ID NO: 8 ~~SEQ ID NO:8~~ or the sequence complementary to bp 2345 to 550 of SEQ ID NO: 9. ~~SEQ ID NO:9;~~
~~(ii)the first gene orf22 (with sequence complementary to bp 1252 to 635 of SEQ ID NO:10) and the second gene GAM-1 (with sequence complementary to bp 3138 to 2290 of SEQ ID NO:10) from an adenovirus, or from the genus aviadenovirus CELO, and~~
~~(iii) combinations of nucleic acids encoding E1A or E1B with GAM-1 or Orf22 as defined in (i) and (ii) above.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The avian cell line of claim 1, further comprising ~~which~~

~~(i) additionally carries~~ non-natural functional sequences comprising transgenes ~~genes complementing deficient viruses (EBNA1)~~, promoters ~~(PGK-, EF1.alpha-, CMV-promoter, or tk-promoter~~, enhancers ~~RSV-LTR~~, or selection markers ~~neomycin-resistance, or puromycin-resistance, and~~

~~(ii) is suitable for production of biologicals or viruses including vaccine strains and recombinant viral vectors~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the cell line ~~which~~

(i) is free of reverse transcriptase activity;

(ii) is derived from immortalization of a primary cell originating from duck embryos or hatched ducks;

(iii) is derived from extraembryonic membrane; or ~~and~~

(iv) is cultivated in a chemically defined medium which is preferably free of animal serum.

7. (Currently Amended) The avian cell line of claim 1, which is avian cell line 12A07-A10 (DSM ACC2695).

8. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a cell line of claim 1, comprising transforming or transfecting a starting cell with the first and second gene.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 comprising non-viral transfection of the starting cell.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for producing viruses or biological recombinant proteins, comprising,

a) providing to the cells of the cell line of Claim 1 a virus, or a gene coding for a recombinant protein operably linked to a promoter;

b) incubating the cells; and

b) harvesting the virus progeny or the recombinant proteins from the cells.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10 wherein the cells are contacted by a pox virus, or pox virus strain MVA, and wherein the cell line is a duck cell line originating from duck somites, duck neuronal tissue or duck retina.

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the first gene and second gene are separated spatially by heterologous sequences or are located on different nucleic acid segments or plasmids.

15. (New) The avian cell line of claim 1, which is suitable for production of biologicals or viruses including vaccine strains and recombinant viral vectors.